



KNUCKLES: THE RETURN
PART 4 OF 4

#12
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SONIC UNIVERSE



DIRECT EDITION

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Team Valley
Hunzeker

Welcome to the planet Mobius – a world unique and beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Knuckles the Echidna, guardian of Angel Island, defends his friends and homeland from the forces of evil!

ECHOES of the PAST

PART FOUR

DARK EGG LEGION--
DOWNUNDA CHAPTER'S
BASE
GREAT CRATER BASIN

SO YOU
ARE IN LEAGUE
WITH THE DARK
EGG LEGION.
I SHOULD'VE
KNOWN YOU WERE
PLAYING US FOR
SAPS, FINITEVUS.

YES,
YOU SHOULD
HAVE.

DR. FINITEVUS
EVIL SCIENTIST

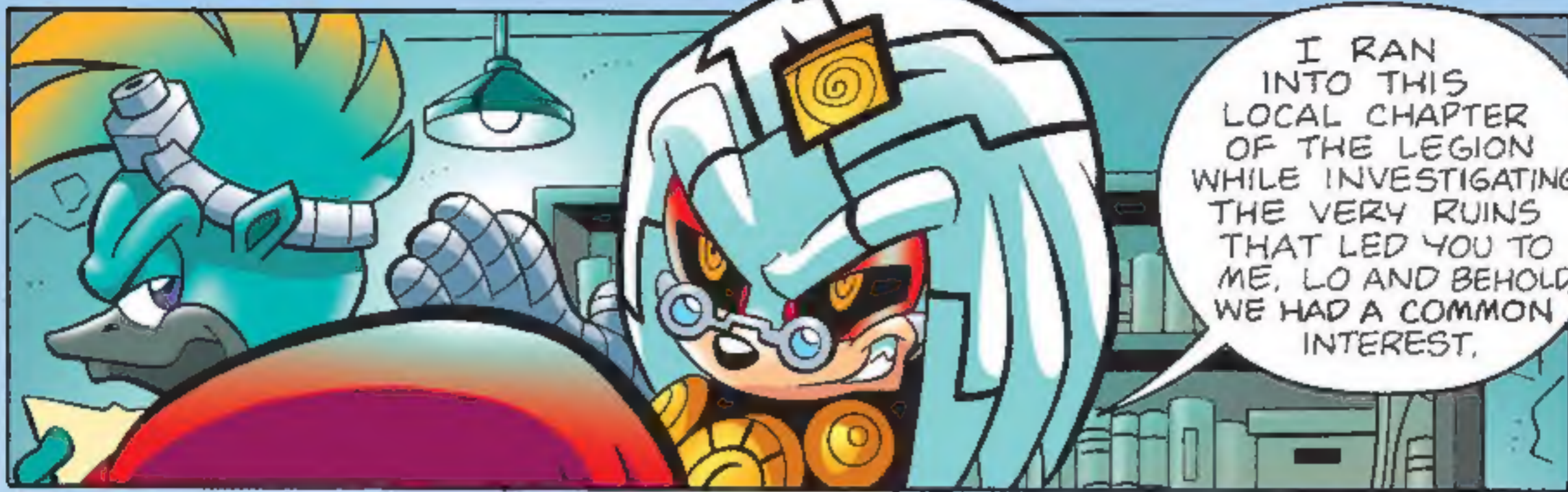
**KNUCKLES THE
ECHIDNA**
GUARDIAN OF
ANGEL ISLAND

DUCK BILL PLATYPUS
GRANDMASTER OF THE
LOCAL D.E.L. CHAPTER

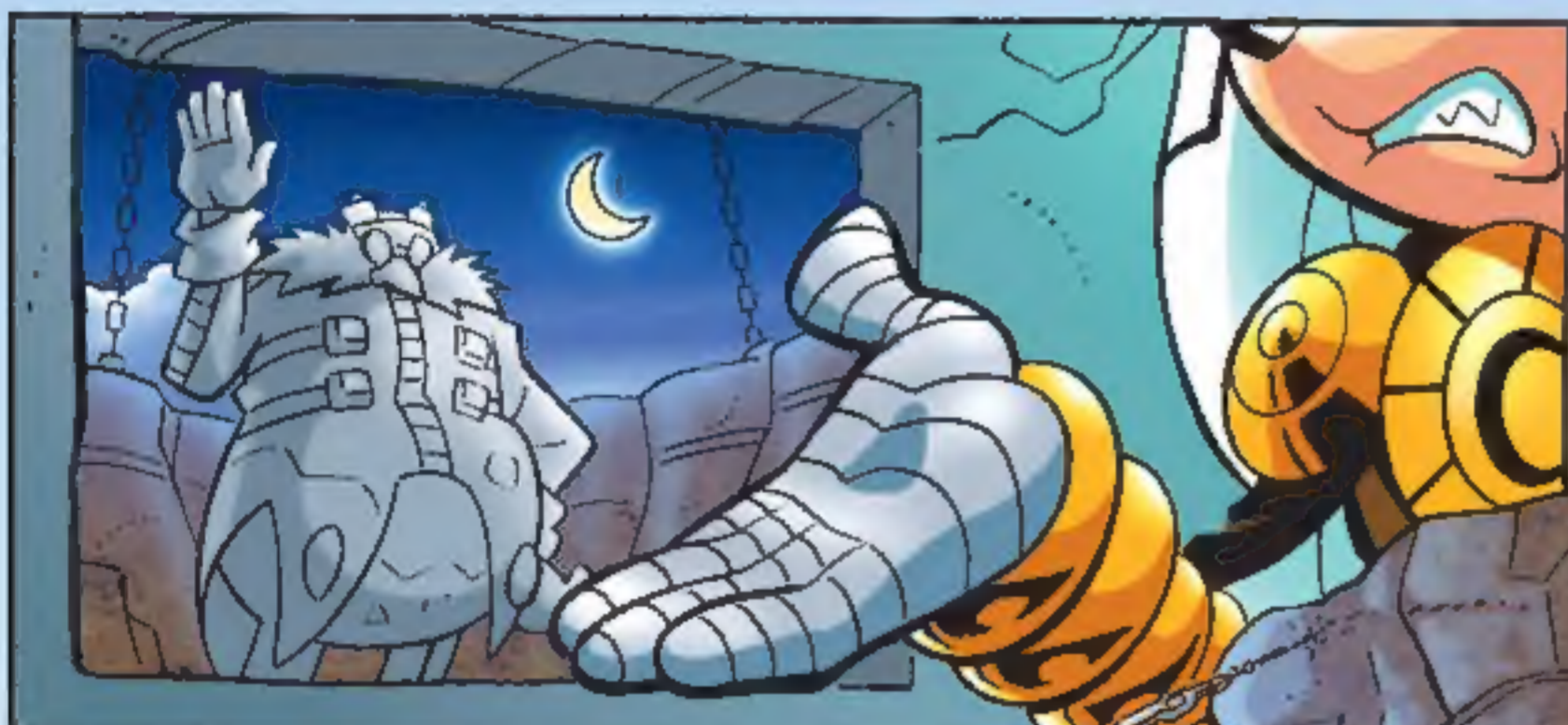
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I RAN INTO THIS LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE LEGION WHILE INVESTIGATING THE VERY RUINS THAT LED YOU TO ME. LO AND BEHOLD, WE HAD A COMMON INTEREST.



WHILE I HAVE NO LOVE FOR DR. ROBOTNIK OR HIS SUCCESSOR-- THE "IRON QUEEN", WAS IT?-- WE ALL DESIRE THE MASTER EMERALD.



"I AGREED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND MY WARP RING TECHNOLOGY TO ENSNARE YOUR PRECIOUS ANGEL ISLAND."



IN RETURN, I AM FREE TO STUDY THE MASTER EMERALD AT MY LEISURE.

YOU ALREADY HEXED IT AND USED IT TO TURN ME INTO ENERJAK. WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

AHHAHA! OH, KNUCKLES! THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO DISCOVER.



NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'M TO OVERSEE THE LAST OF ANGEL ISLAND BEING REELED BACK INTO ITS PLACE HERE IN THE GREAT CRATER.



A WORD OF ADVICE, GRANDMASTER.

HAVE YOUR MEN COMB THE CRATER FOR THE FEMALE ECHIDNA AND THE SQUIRREL CHILD. THEY HAVE TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE.



I HAVE BUSINESS WITH THE PRISONERS, I DO NOT WANT TO BE DISTURBED.

SIR!



I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR THIS.

WAIT--
WE'RE
FREE?

NOT
LIKE THEY
COULD
HOLD ME,
BUT **BOY**
DOES
THAT FEEL
GOOD!

I'D RATHER
YOU STAYED
LOCKED UP,
VECTOR, BUT
I NEED ALL
THE HELP I
CAN GET AT
THIS POINT.

LIKE
YOU'RE IN
A POSITION TO
JUDGE ANYWAY,
BILL.

WHAT
GIVES, WALT?
YOU SAID HE
TURNED ON
YOUR TEAM.

THAT, AND
HELPED CONQUER
DOWNUNDA FOR
THE EGGMAN
EMPIRE.

YOU HAVE
A LOT OF
EXPLAINING TO
DO, BILL,
ESPECIALLY
TO ME.

I'M SO
SORRY, BARBY.
I WANTED TO
TELL YOU--
ALL OF YOU--BUT
I NEVER HAD
TIME.

"WHEN DR. ROBOTNIK PUT NEW PRESSURE ON THE REGION, MY PEOPLE SAW AN OPPORTUNITY FOR POWER. THEY CAME TO ME SINCE I LED THEM ONCE BEFORE."



"I COULDN'T DISSUADE THEM, SO I TRIED TO MANAGE THE CRISIS. I VOLUNTEERED MYSELF TO DR. ROBOTNIK TO MAINTAIN CONTROL, I GUESS HE LIKED THE IDEA OF ME TURNING TRAITOR."



"WE WERE 'UPGRADED' WITH CYBERNETICS AND MADE A NEW CHAPTER OF HIS GROWING 'DARK EGG LEGION.' WE SET UP BASE HERE IN THE GREAT CRATER'S BASIN, AND YOU KNOW THE REST."

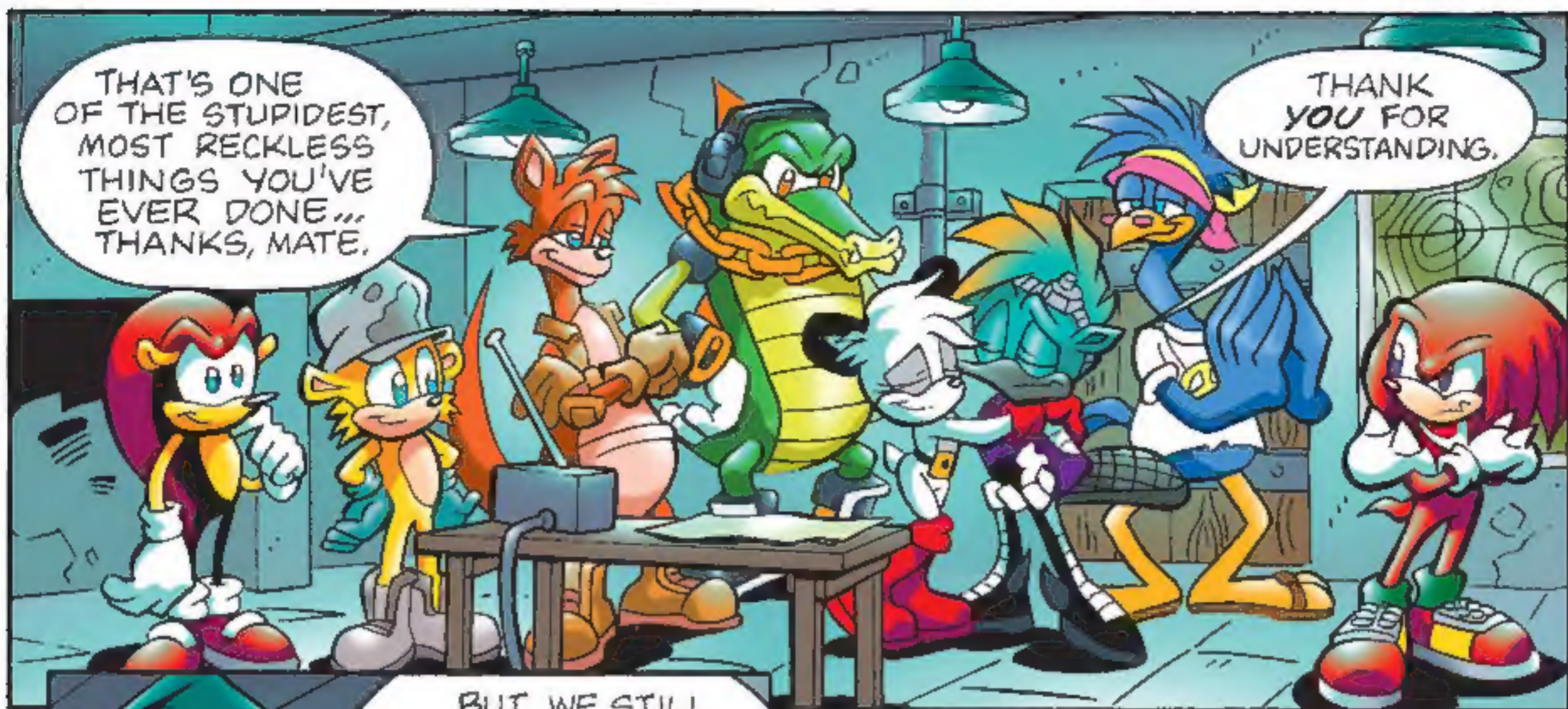


THERE WASN'T ANY WAY TO GET WORD TO YOU AND TELL YOU MY PLAN.

I'VE TRIED TO MISMANAGE THINGS, BUT I HAD TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS OR ROBOTNIK WOULD FIGURE OUT MY REAL MOTIVES.

I'M SO, SO SORRY.





RAAAAHHHH

WOMBAT STU
D.F.F.

MIGHTY THE
ARMADILLO
CHAOTIX

BARBY KOALA
D.F.F.

WALT
WALLABEE
D.F.F.

VECTOR THE
CROCODILE
CHAOTIX

THRASH THE
TASMANIAN
D.F.F. (?)

CHAOTIX!
DOWNUNDA
FREEDOM FIGHTERS!
CHARGE!

LET US
TAKE CARE
OF OUR HOME,
MATE. YOU
GO TAKE
CARE OF
YOURS.

GOOD
LUCK!



YEAH, ABOUT THAT, THE ISLAND IS STILL A FEW MILES UP THERE, AND WE'RE FRESH OUT OF WARP RINGS.



MAYBE I COULD JURY RIG ONE OF THOSE WINGED DINGO 'BOTS...

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT! FINITEVUS IS ALREADY ON THE ISLAND!



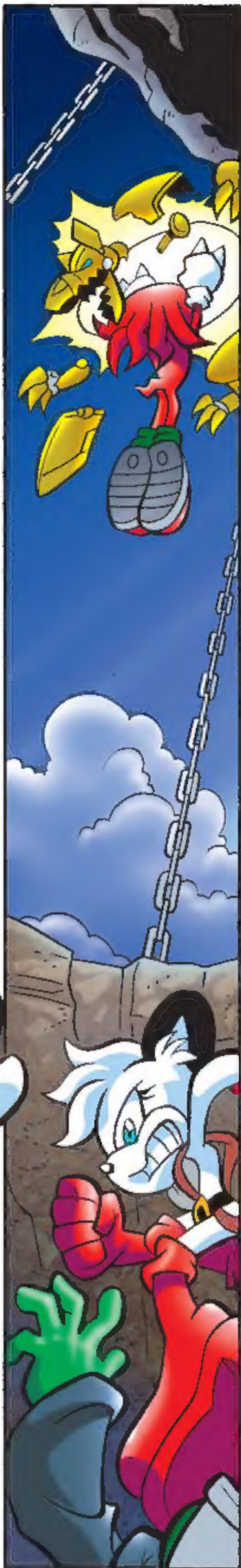
I'LL GET YOU THERE.

WHAT DO YOU-- WAIT, YOU'RE SURE?

POSITIVE.

AS SONIC MIGHT SAY: "LET'S DO IT TO IT!"

PLEASE DON'T. IT'S BAD ENOUGH WHEN HE DOES IT.



ANGEL ISLAND--
SHRINE ISLE

FINITEVUS!
STOP!

KNUCKLES?!

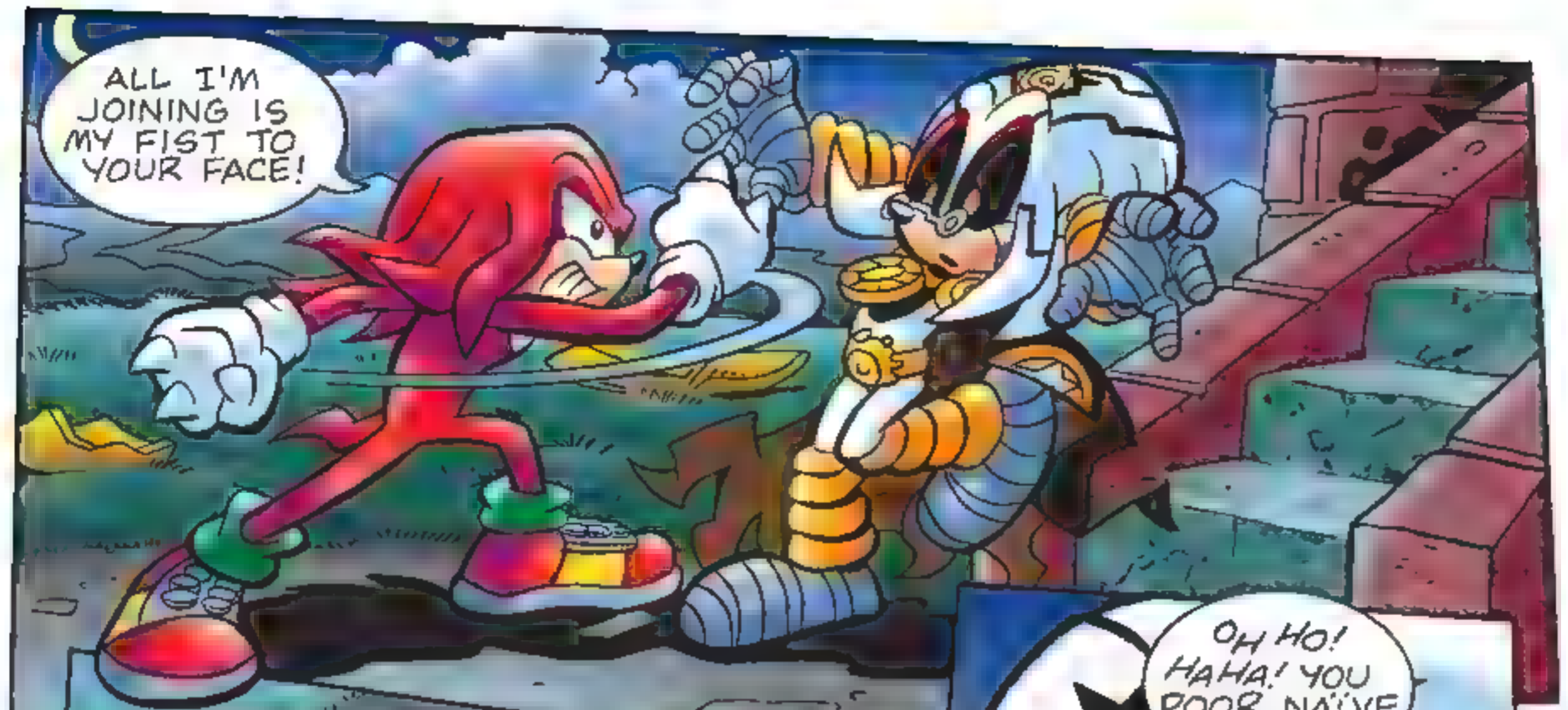
OH, WHY
SHOULD I BE
SURPRISED?

LET'S MAKE
THIS QUICK.

LET'S NOT
RUSH TO VIOLENCE,
I APOLOGIZE FOR
USING YOU BEFORE,
ALL RIGHT?

I DIDN'T
THINK A DEVOUT
GUARDIAN LIKE
YOURSELF WOULD
BE ABLE TO SEE
THE WORLD'S
SITUATION
CLEARLY.

BUT NOW
THAT YOU HAVE
SEEN THROUGH
MY EYES, NOW
THAT YOU SEE
WHAT YOU CAN
DO, WILL YOU
JOIN ME IN
SAVING THIS
WORLD?



ALL I'M JOINING IS MY FIST TO YOUR FACE!



THE LAST THING THIS WORLD NEEDS IS ANOTHER ENERJAK!

WOOF!



OH HO!
HAHA! YOU POOR, NAÏVE BOY.


THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ENERJAK THROUGHOUT THE AGES!




GRANTED, I MAY HAVE RUSHED THE SCENARIO WITH YOU, BUT WHAT IS SCIENCE WITHOUT ITS TRIAL AND ERROR?

WAIT...
DIMITRI WAS THE FIRST ENERJAK.


THAT WAS ONLY A FEW HUNDRED YEARS AGO.




MY BOY, YOU'VE ONLY SCRAPED THE SURFACE OF OUR HISTORY! I CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH ALL THE ANSWERS YOUR FOREFATHERS COULD NOT AND **WOULD NOT** GIVE YOU.



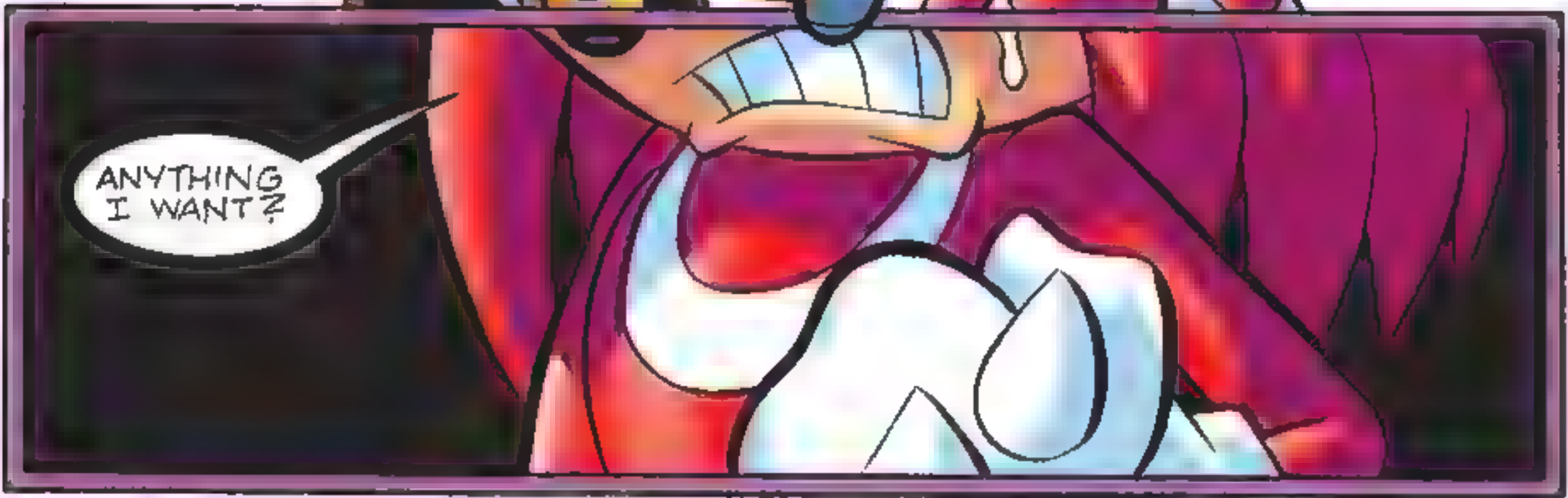
THE ANSWER TO THE STRANGE RUINS ON BOTH THIS ISLAND AND BELOW. ALL THE SECRET SINS OF ALBION, THE TRUTH TO ENERJAK AND THE "GODDESS" AURORA.



AND THEN WE CLEANSE THIS WORLD THAT IS LIKE A GARDEN GONE WILD.




WE'RE SO MUCH ALIKE--WE DON'T NEED TO BE ENEMIES. CLARITY AND PURITY IS WHAT I'M OFFERING, KNUCKLES ANYTHING YOU WANT.




ANYTHING I WANT?



I
WANT MY
FATHER
BACK!



I WANT
TO BE ABLE
TO FACE MY
MOTHER
AGAIN!



I WANT
TO BE ABLE
TO FACE MY
PEOPLE
AGAIN!



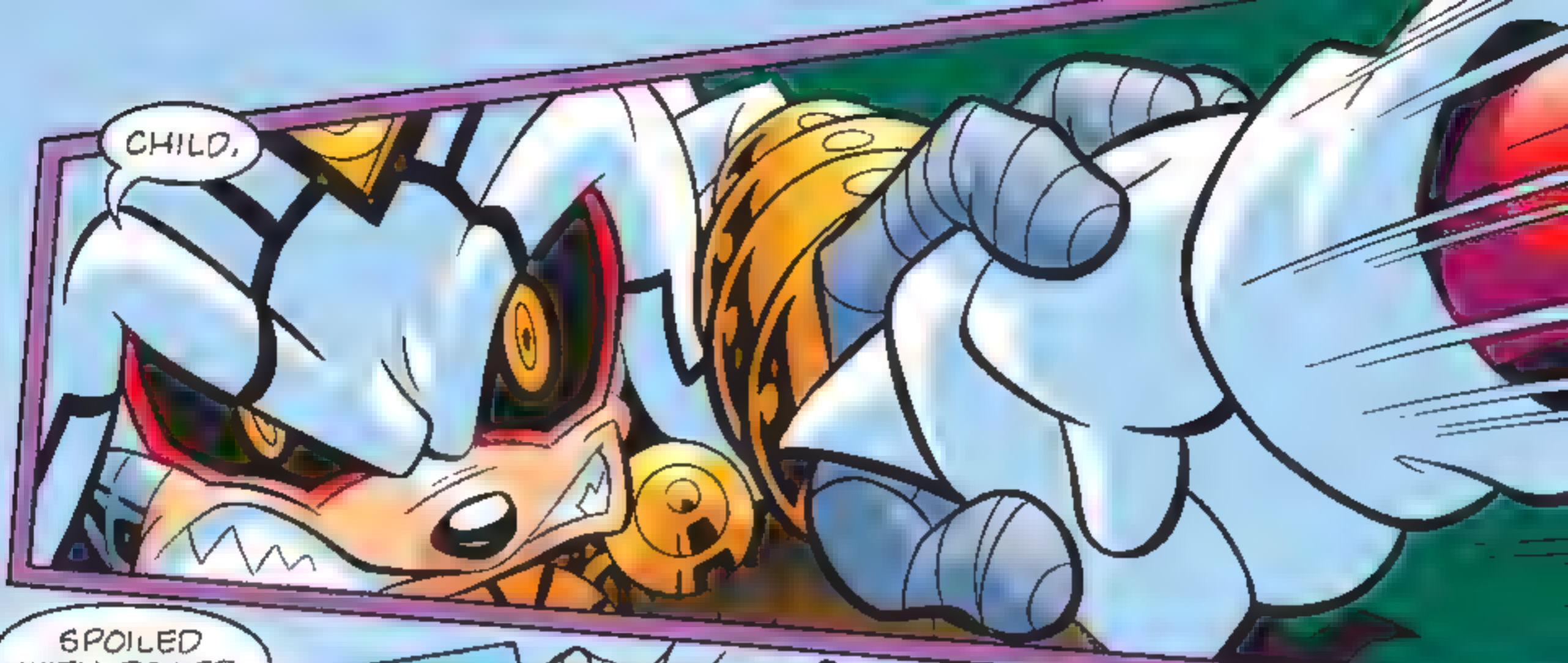
AND
I WANT--

YOU--

OFF--

MY--

--ISLAND!



CHILD,

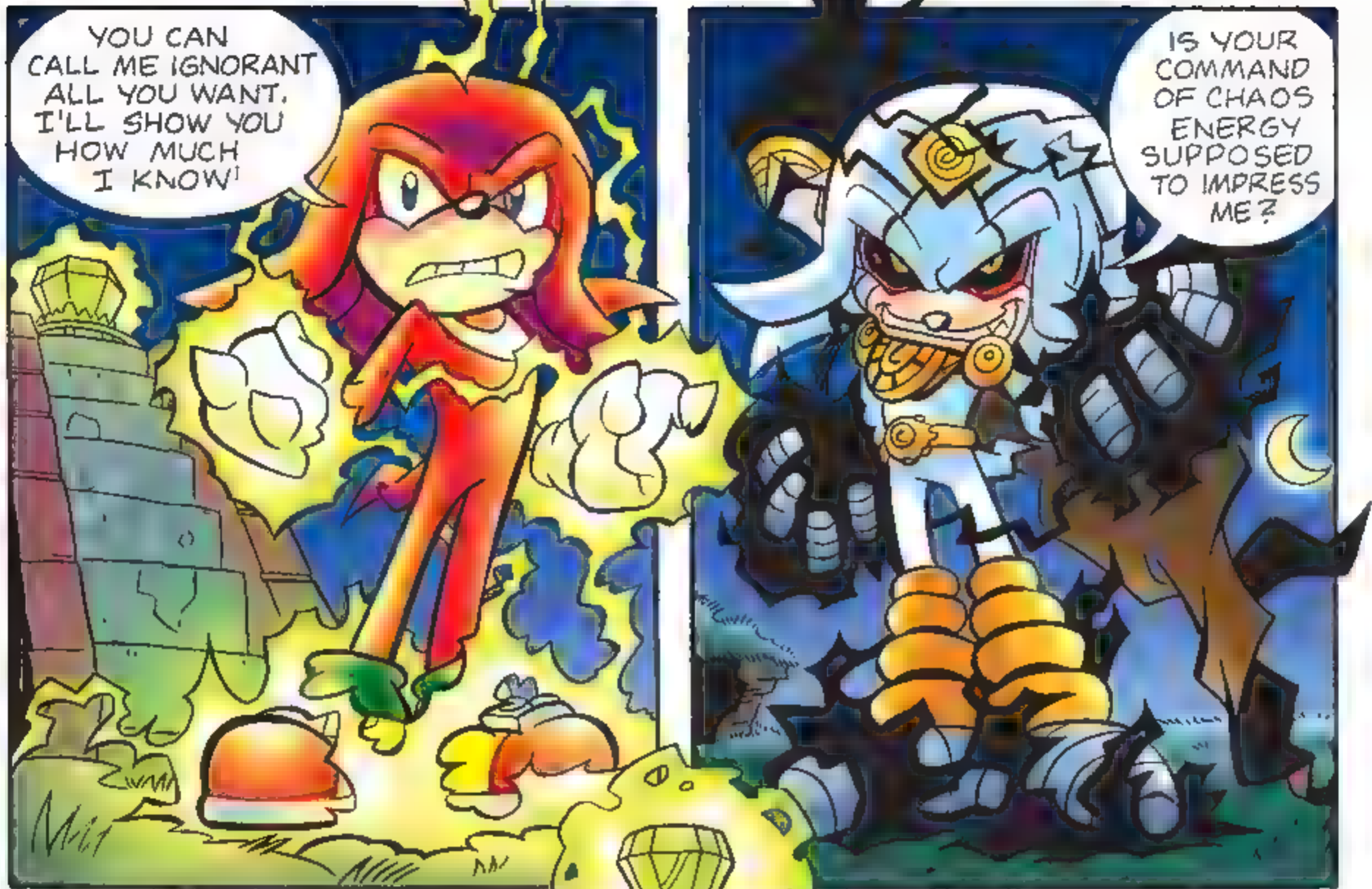


SPOILED WITH POWER.

BLIND TO REALITY...

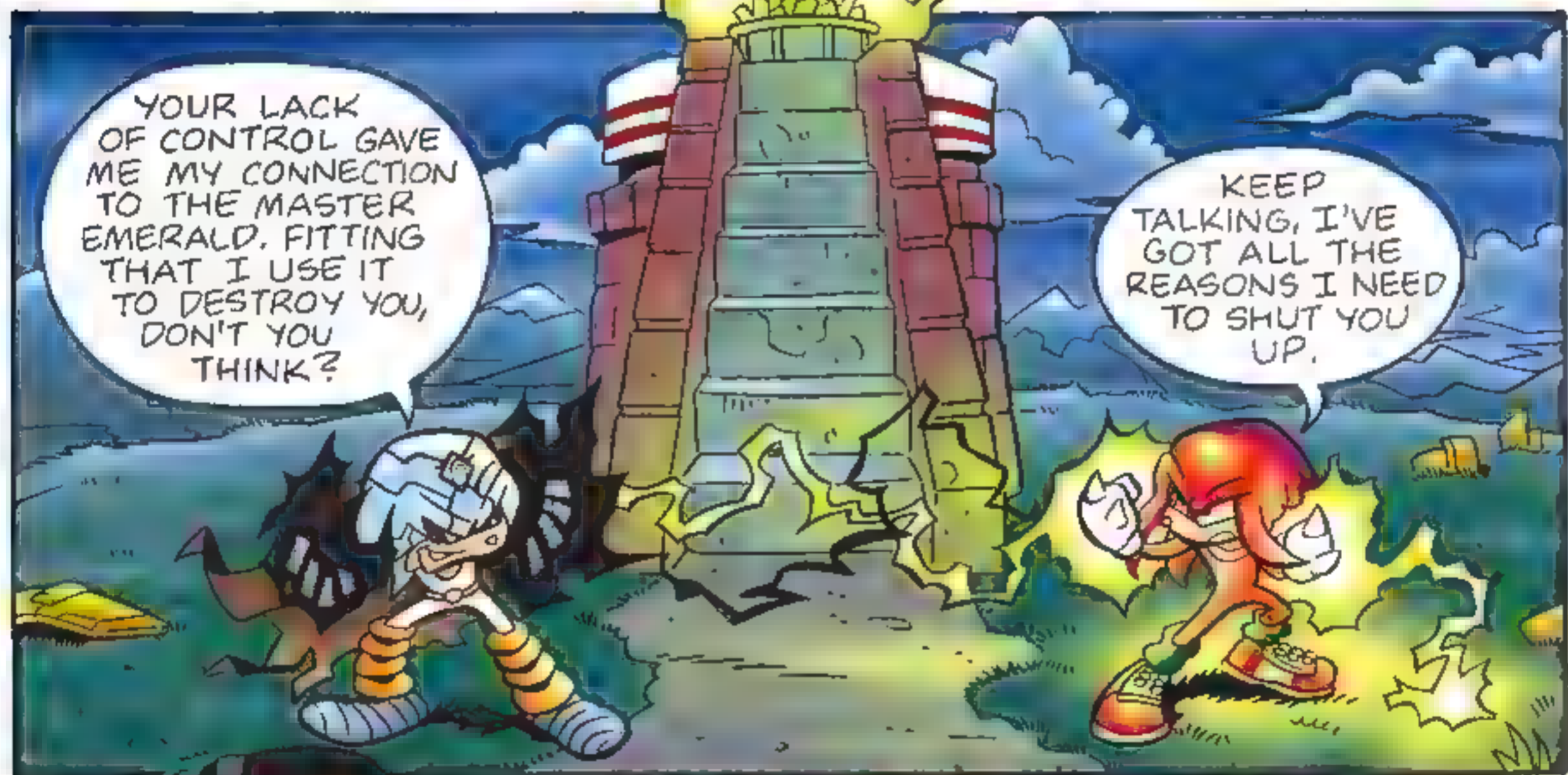
... WITH NO VISION FOR THE FUTURE!





YOU CAN CALL ME IGNORANT ALL YOU WANT, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW MUCH I KNOW!

IS YOUR COMMAND OF CHAOS ENERGY SUPPOSED TO IMPRESS ME?

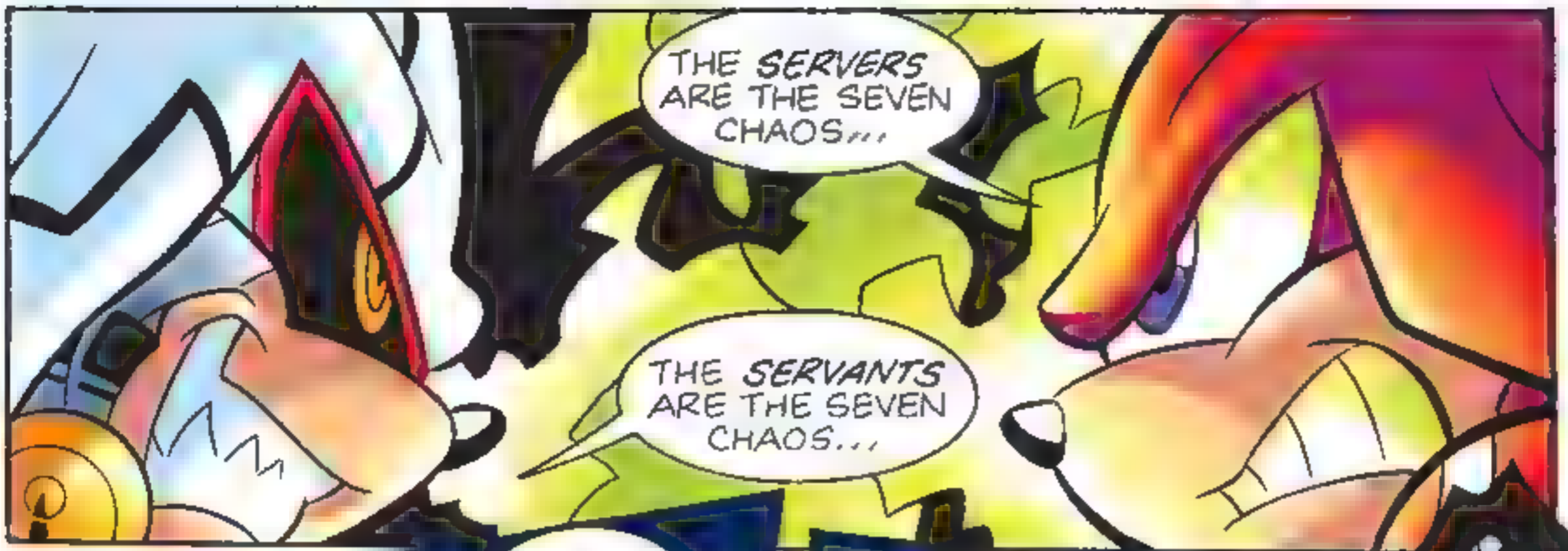


YOUR LACK OF CONTROL GAVE ME MY CONNECTION TO THE MASTER EMERALD, FITTING THAT I USE IT TO DESTROY YOU, DON'T YOU THINK?

KEEP TALKING, I'VE GOT ALL THE REASONS I NEED TO SHUT YOU UP.



KRA-KOOON

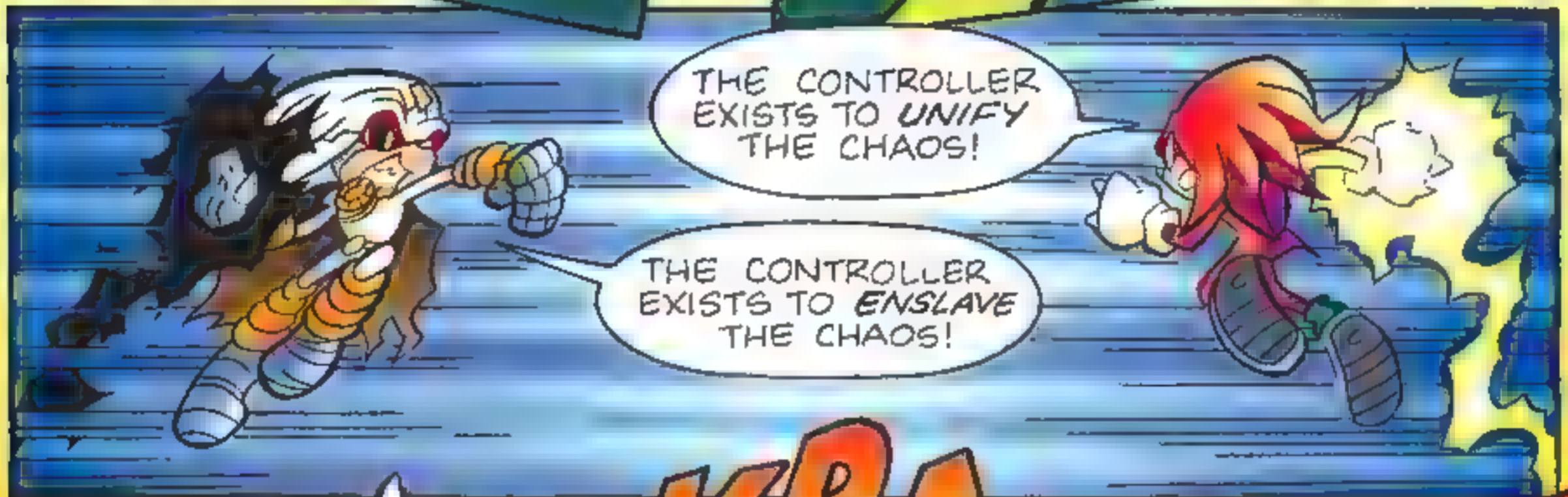


THE SERVERS
ARE THE SEVEN
CHAOS...

THE *SERVANTS*
ARE THE SEVEN
CHAOS...

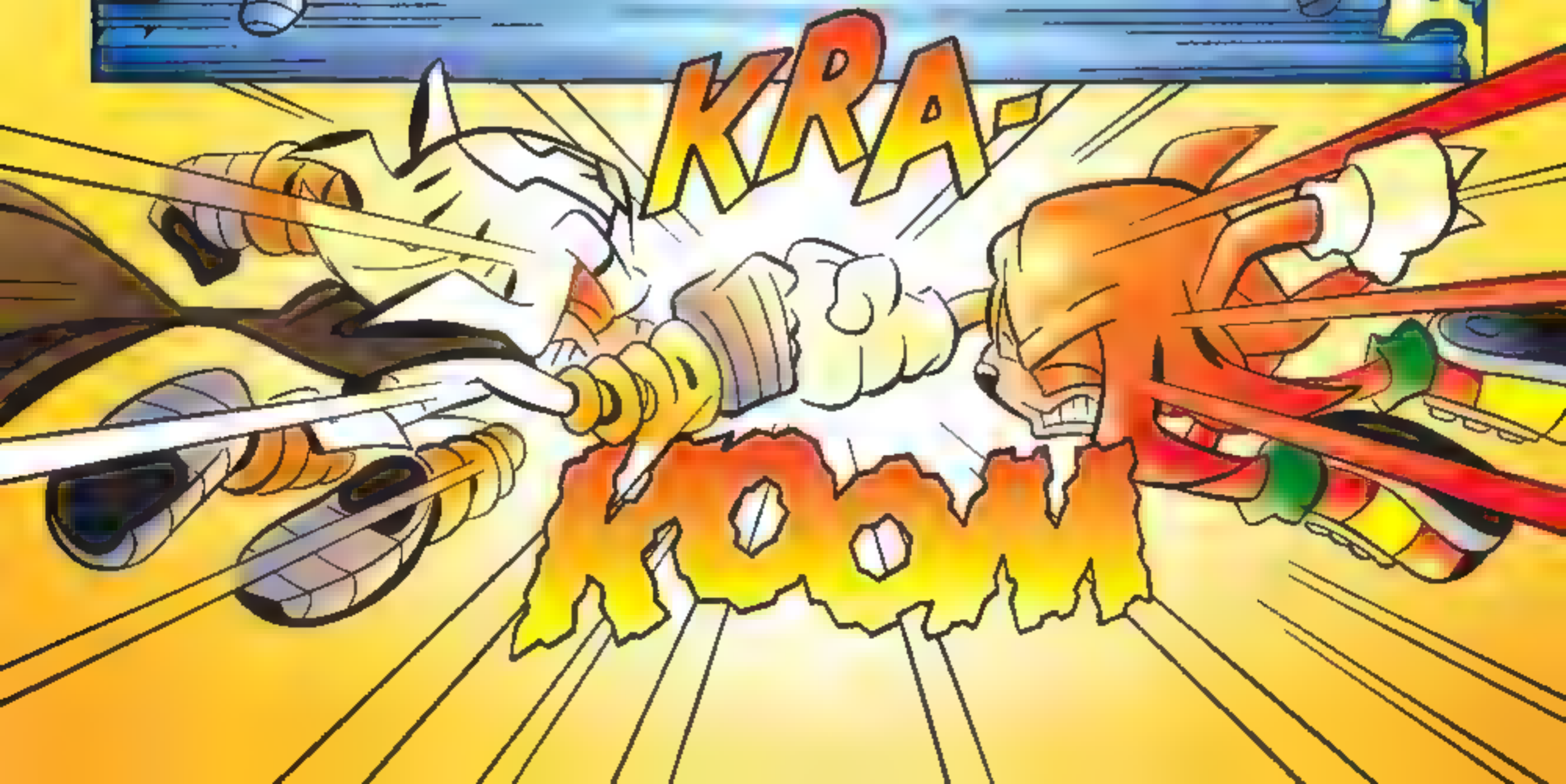
CHAOS
IS POWER,
ENRICHED
BY THE
HEART...

CHAOS
IS POWER,
CONTROLLED
BY MY
WILL...



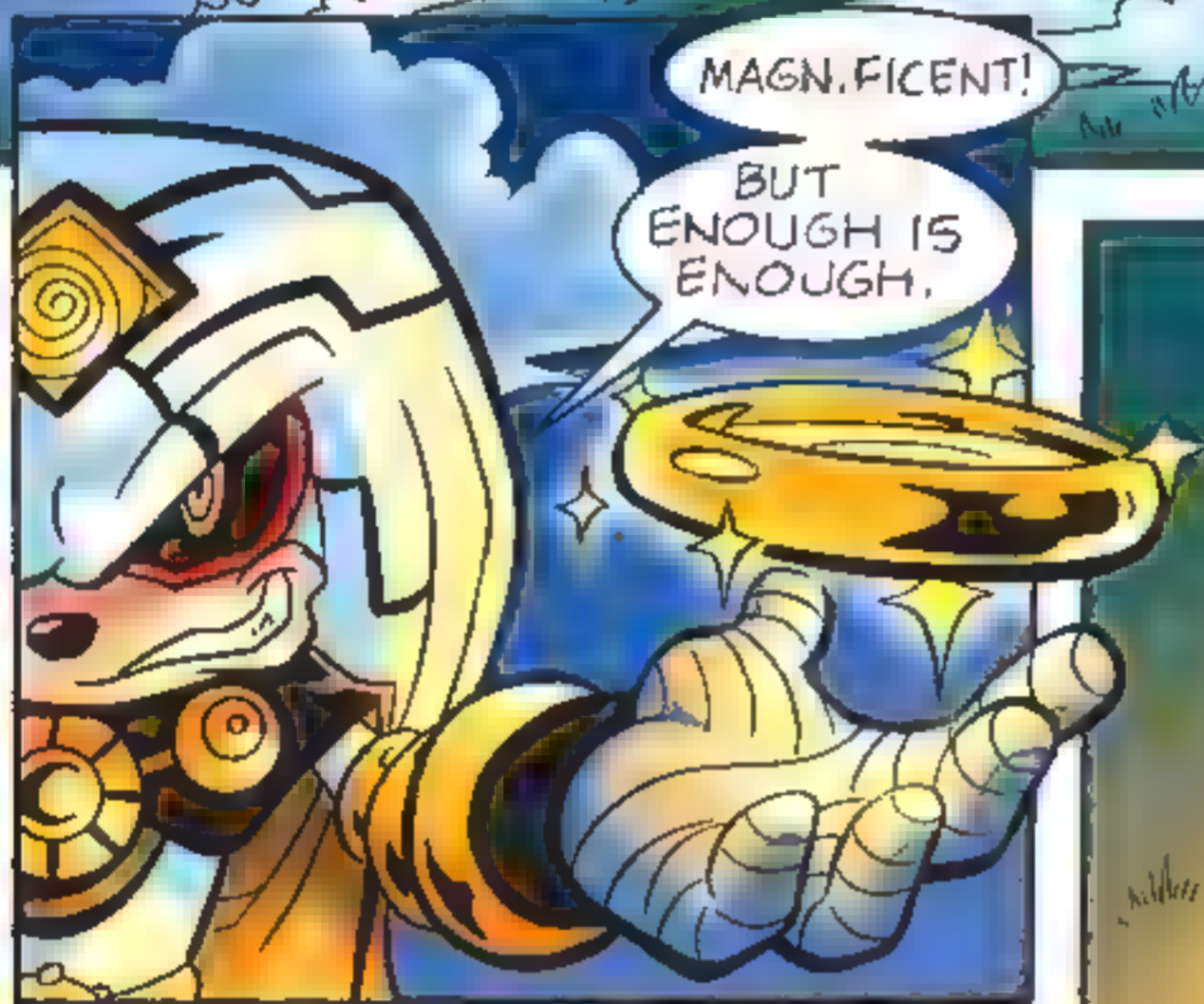
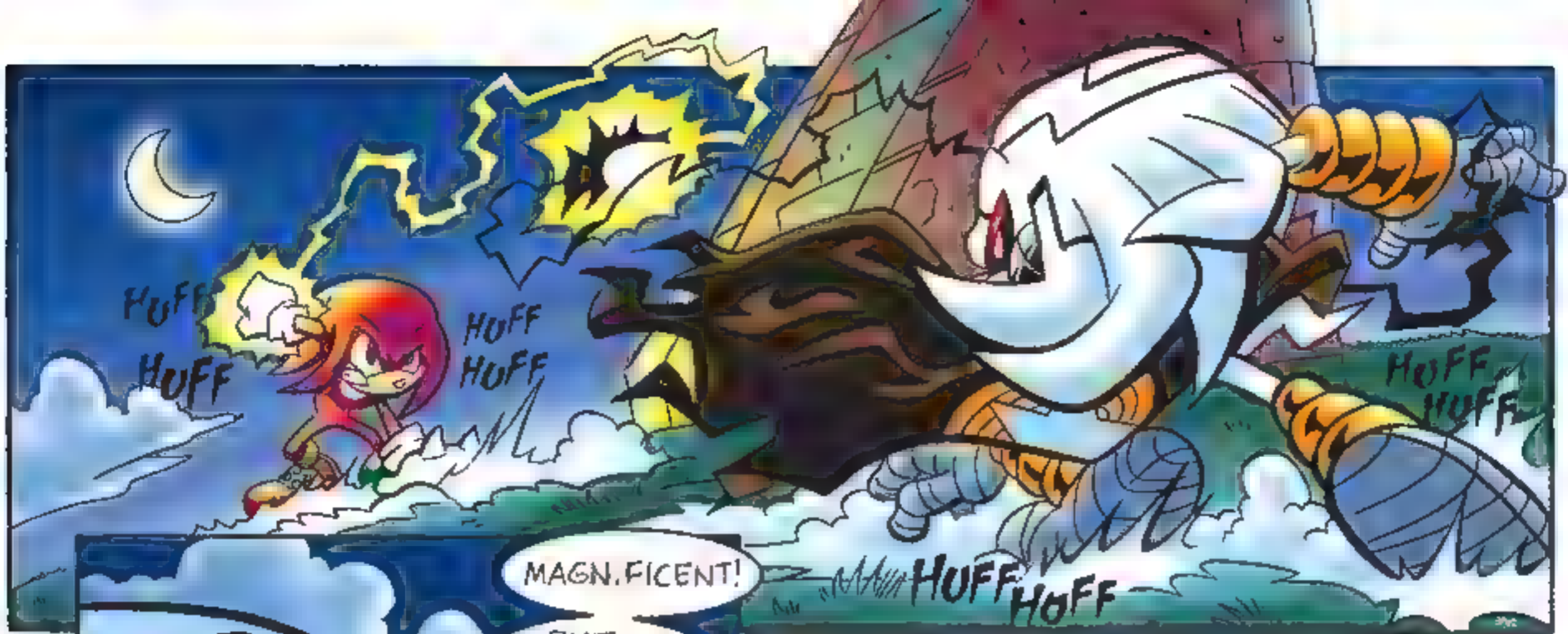
THE CONTROLLER
EXISTS TO *UNIFY*
THE CHAOS!

THE CONTROLLER
EXISTS TO *ENSLAVE*
THE CHAOS!



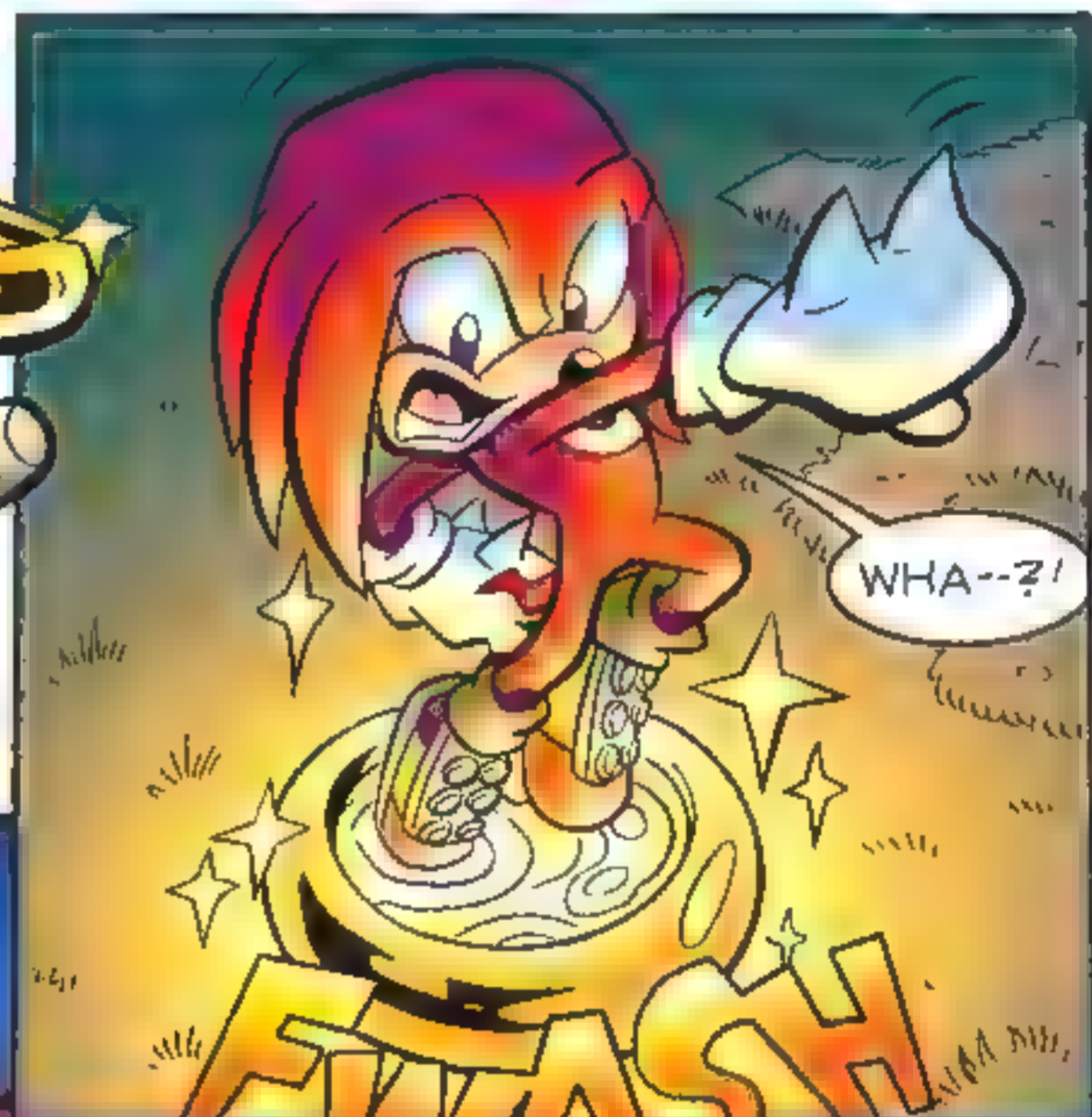
KRA

KROOM



MAGNIFICENT!

BUT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.



WHA--?!

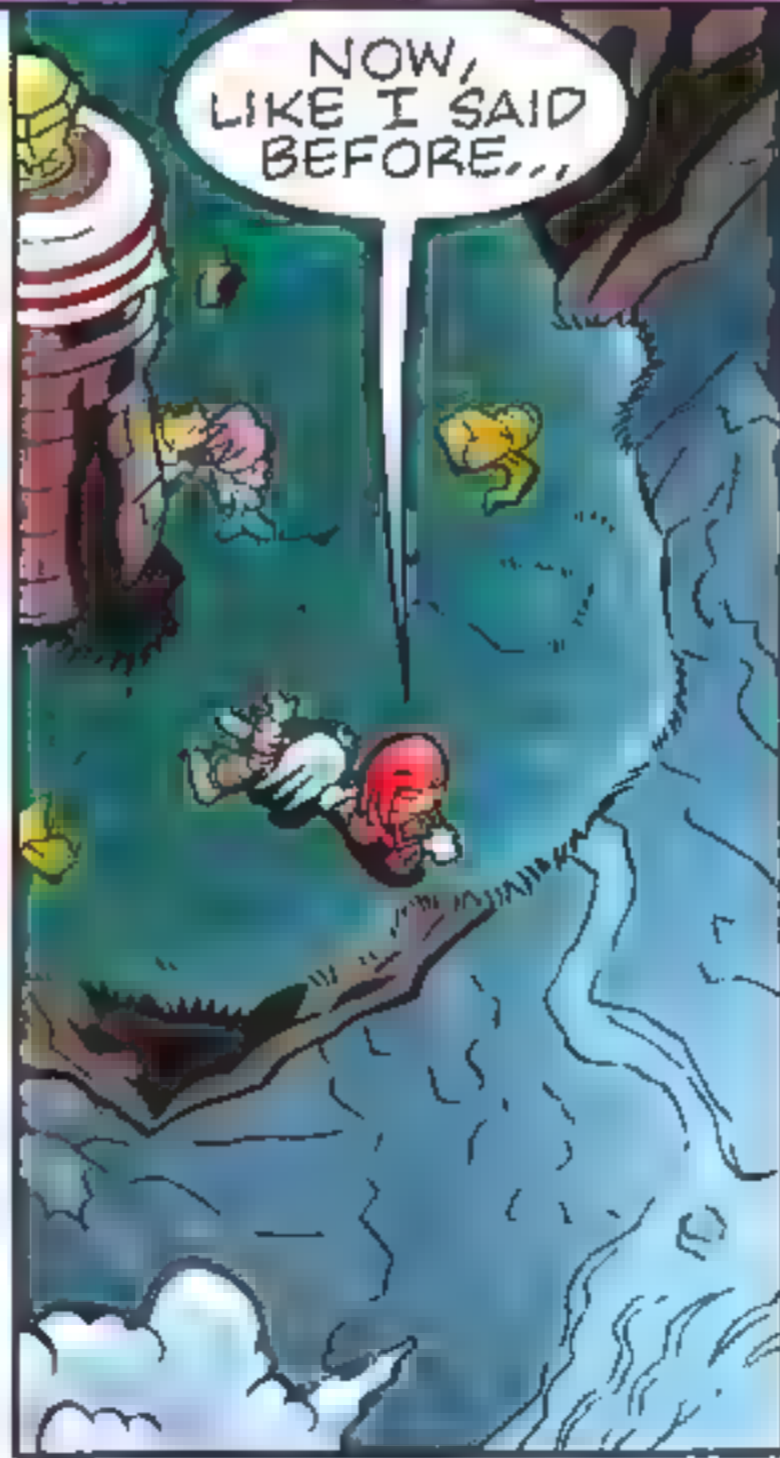
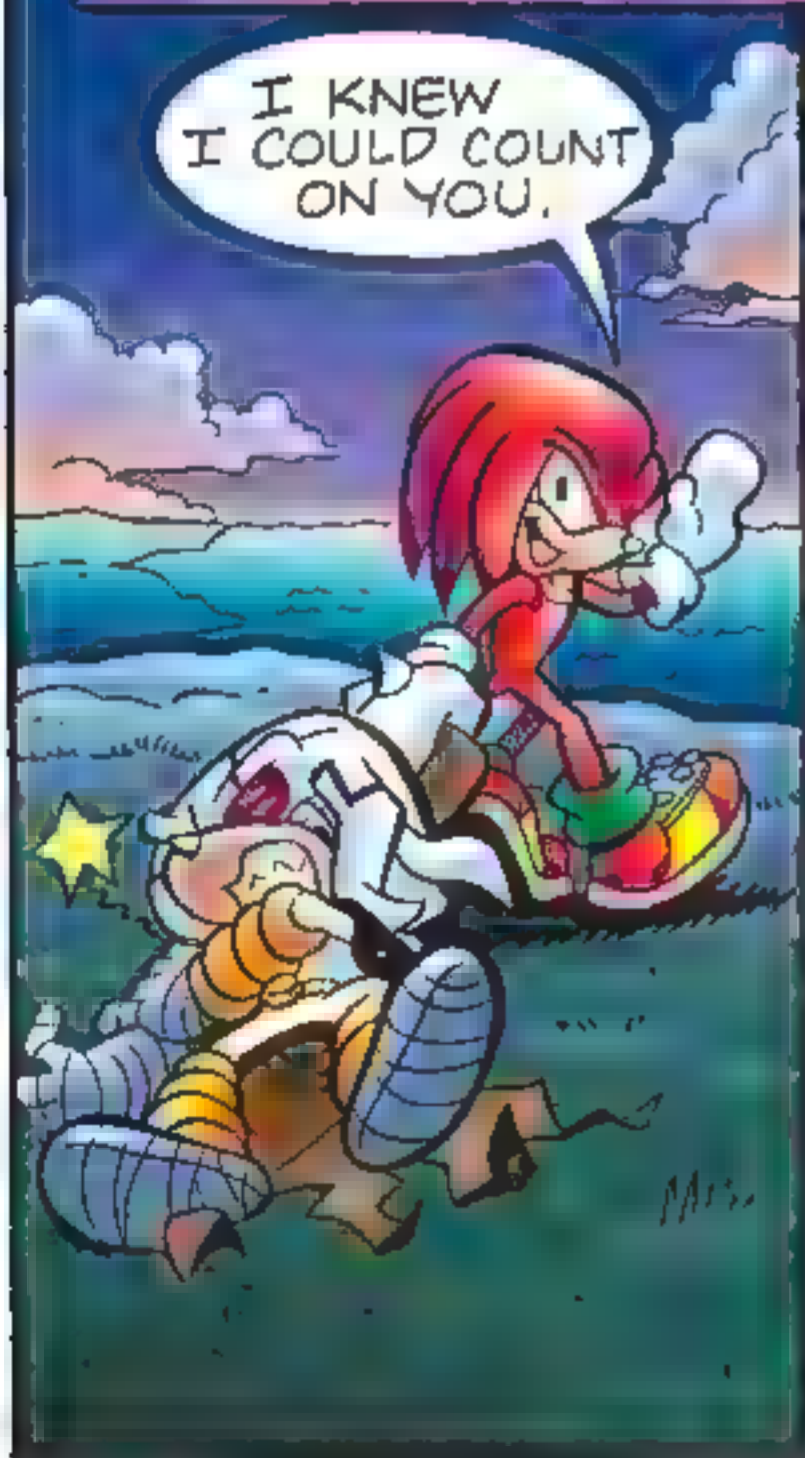
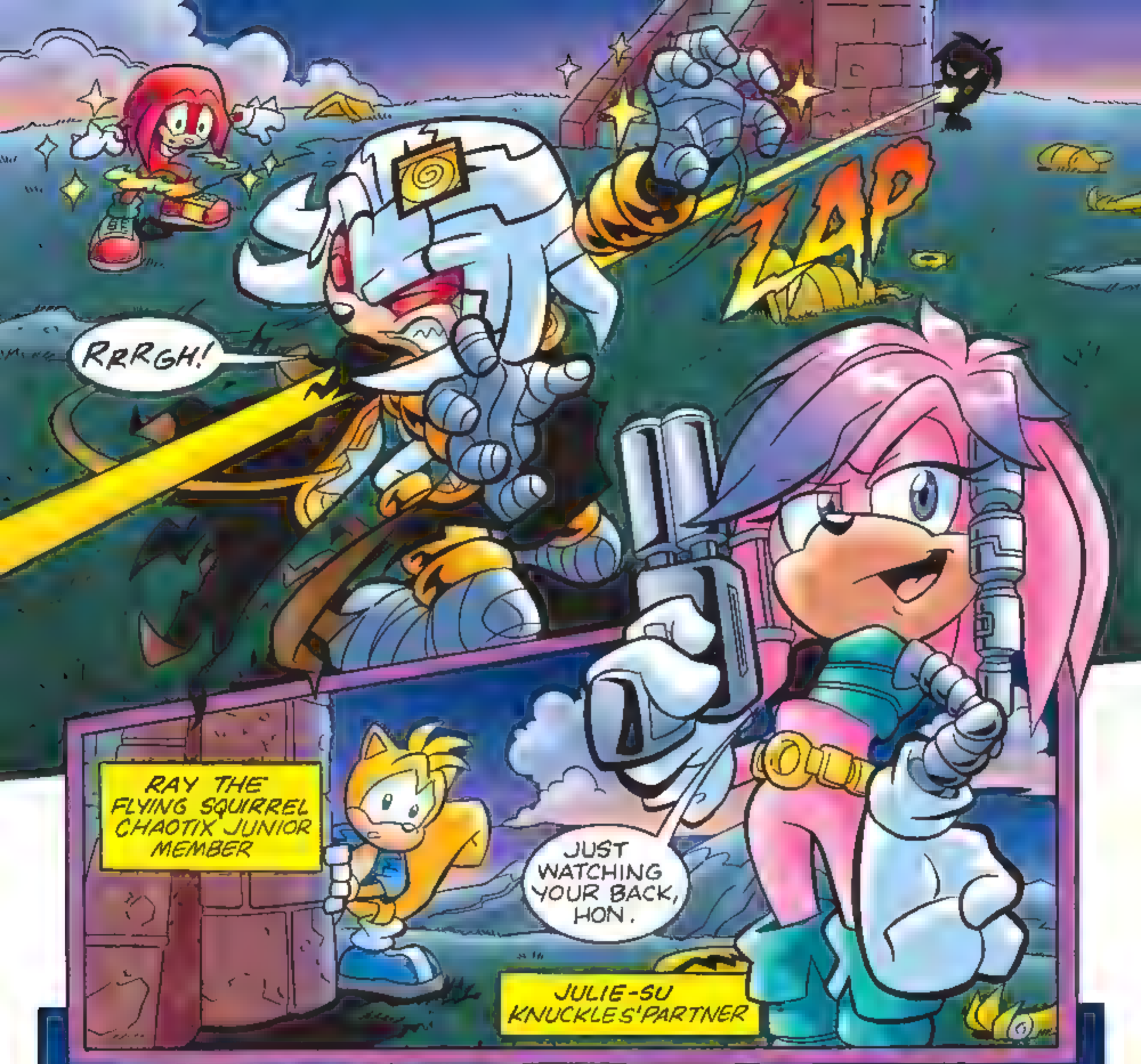
FWASH



ONE LAST EXPERIMENT, GUARDIAN, AND WE'RE THROUGH.



LET'S FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I CLOSE ONE OF THESE WHEN YOU'RE ONLY HALF-WAY THROUGH.





SO... BACK UP TO ANGEL ISLAND WITH ALL YOUR ECHIDNA FRIENDS?

NO, ACTUALLY.

NO?
OH, RIGHT, I REMEMBER YOU SAYIN' ALL THAT'S LEFT WORK FOR THE IRON QUEEN NOW.

HALF OF THEM, YEAH, BUT STILL...

THE OTHER HALF ARE HIDDEN AWAY FOR THEIR SAFETY.



'COURSE! SURE WOULD BE A TERRIBLE THING FOR THE LAST OF YER KIND TO GET WIPED OUT.

AND WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU, THRASH?



ME CHUMS HERE HAVE THINGS UNDER CONTROL, I GUESS I'LL TAKE UP ME OLD QUEST. TA!



IT'S GONNA BUG ME FOREVER THAT WE NEVER FOUND DOC F'S BODY.

YOU KNOW BETTER, VECTOR. HE'LL BE BACK.

YEAH? WELL, HE CAN BRING IT.



I'M PROUD OF YOU, Y'KNOW. I KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR HERITAGE AND HISTORY MEAN TO YOU. FINITEVUS'S OFFER HAD TO BE TEMPTING.

NOT REALLY.



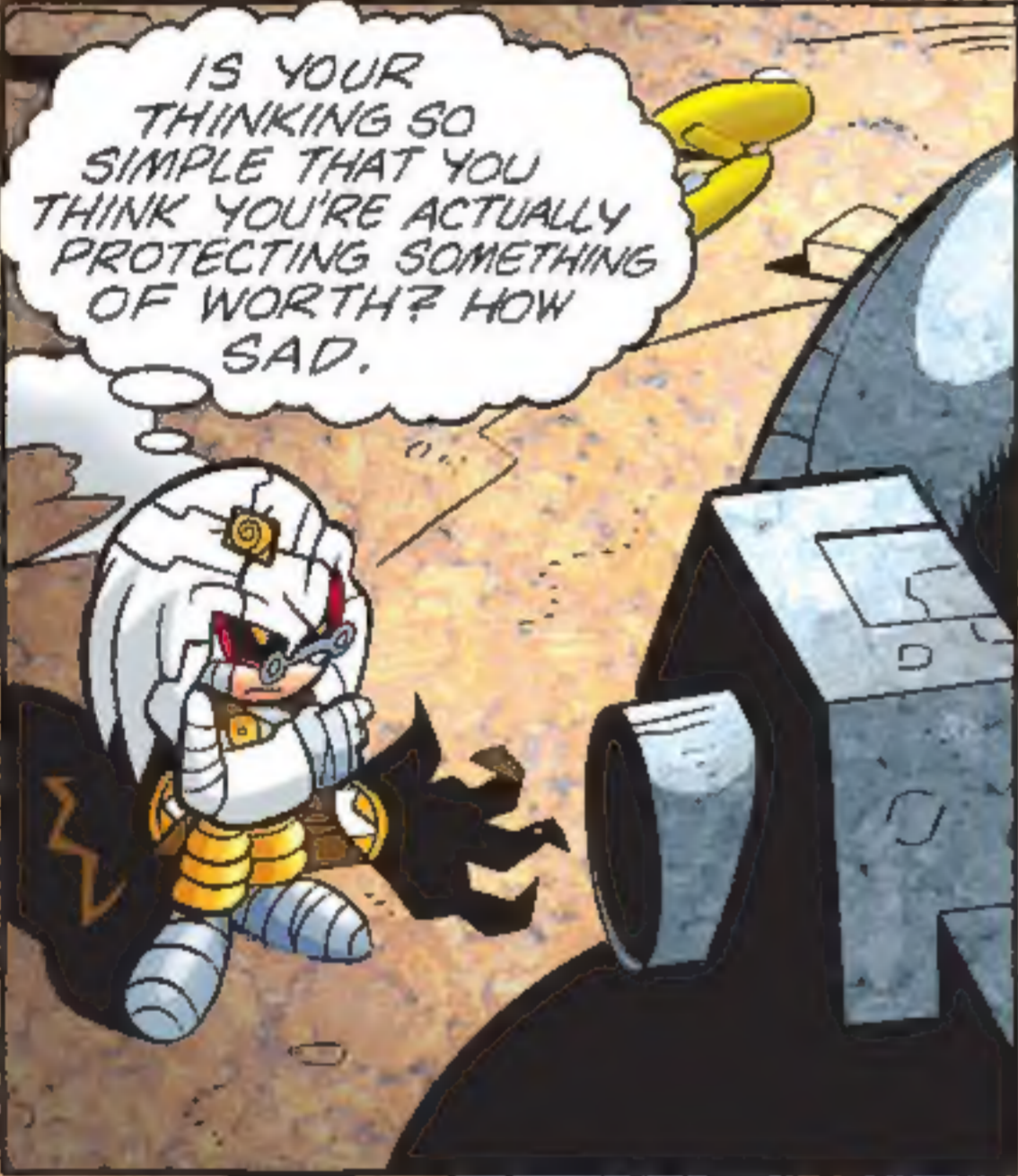
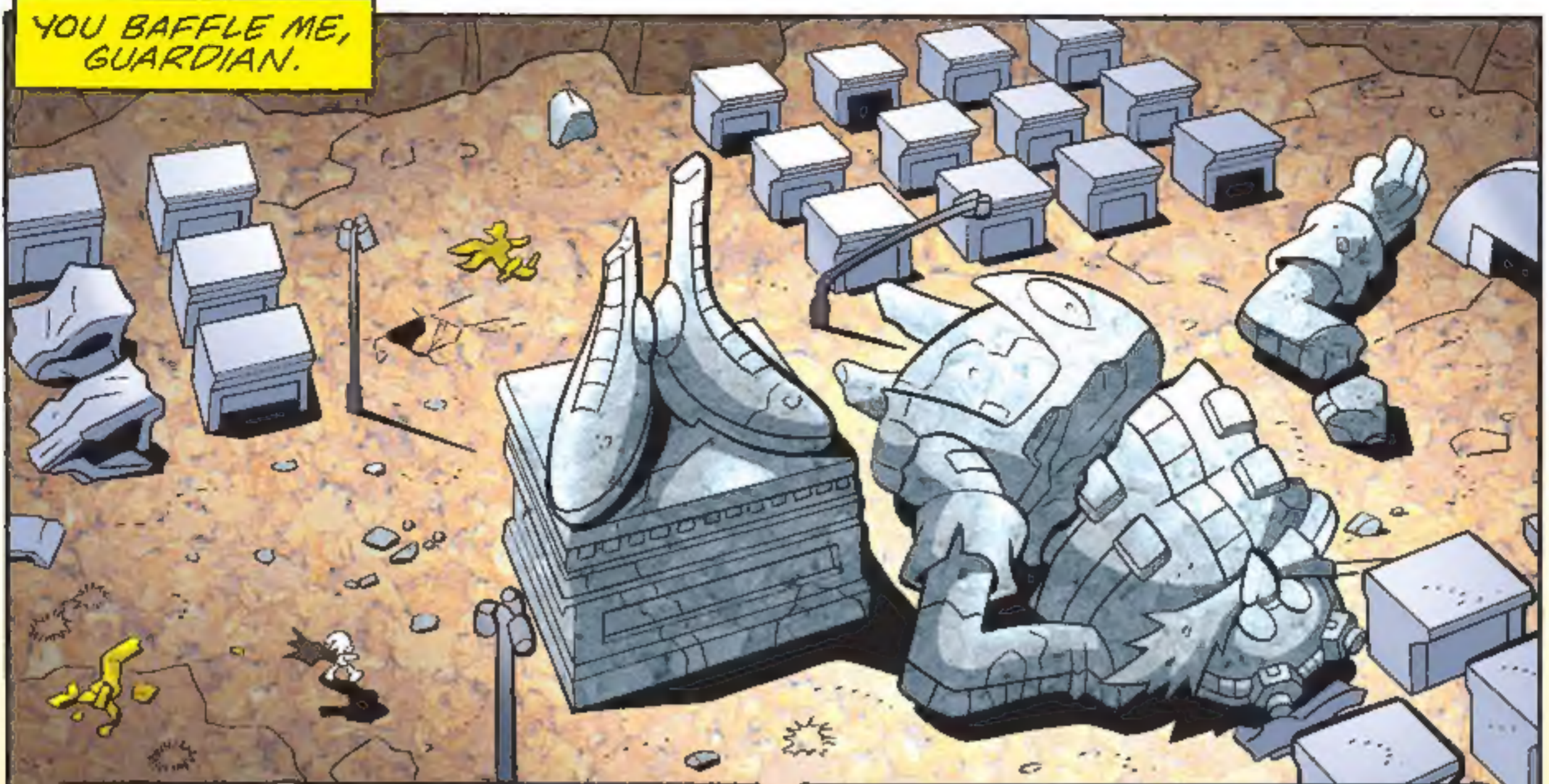
FINITEVUS LIKES TO TWIST THINGS TO HIS POINT OF VIEW. BESIDES, EVEN IF HE TOLD NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH, IT'S NOT WORTH EVERYTHING I HAVE NOW.



GOOD TO KNOW, HANDSOME. 'CAUSE I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE ANYTIME SOON.

I KNOW.

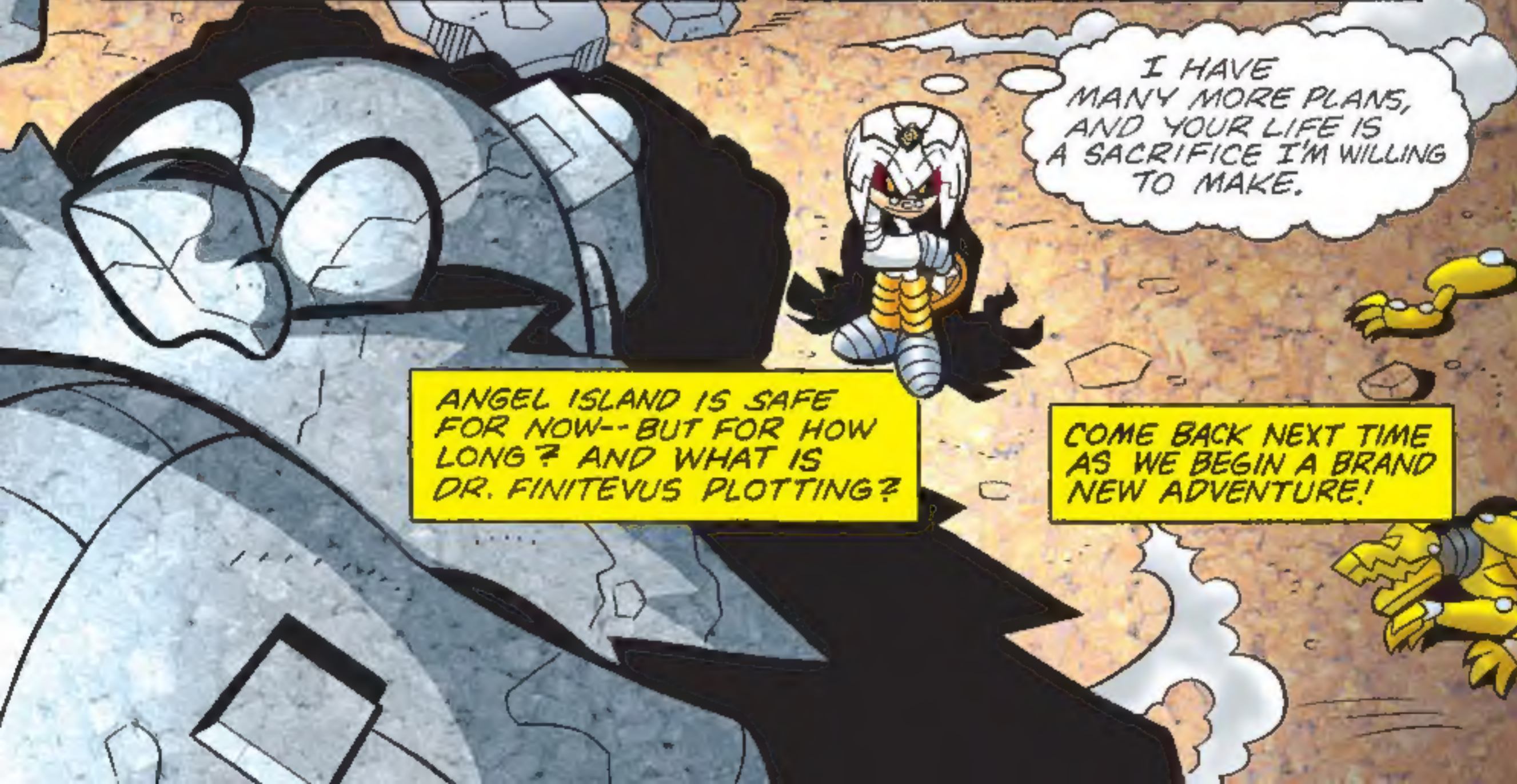
YOU BAFFLE ME,
GUARDIAN.



IS YOUR
THINKING SO
SIMPLE THAT YOU
THINK YOU'RE ACTUALLY
PROTECTING SOMETHING
OF WORTH? HOW
SAD.



IF THAT'S
THE CASE, YOU'RE
TRULY BEYOND
SAVING. BUT
THAT DOESN'T
MEAN YOU CAN'T
BE USEFUL,



I HAVE
MANY MORE PLANS,
AND YOUR LIFE IS
A SACRIFICE I'M WILLING
TO MAKE.

ANGEL ISLAND IS SAFE
FOR NOW-- BUT FOR HOW
LONG? AND WHAT IS
DR. FINITEVUS PLOTTING?

COME BACK NEXT TIME
AS WE BEGIN A BRAND
NEW ADVENTURE!



OFF PANEL ECHOES of the PAST

THAT'S NASTY!



SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: JAMAL PEPPERS INKS/COLORS: PAUL KAMINSKI



OFF PANEL ECHOES of the PAST

"CARRIED AWAY!"



SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: JAMAL PEPPERS INKS/COLORS: PAUL KAMINSKI



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